

Rodney S. Diggs (SBN 274459)
rdiggs@imwlaw.com
Britney Ralston (SBN 333947)
IVIE McNEILL WYATT PURCELL & DIGGS
A Professional Law Corporation
444 South Flower Street, Suite 3200
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Telephone: (213) 489-0028
Facsimile: (213) 489-0552

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
ROBYN BALLIET and BALLIET MEDIA GROUP

Allison Scott (Bar No. 305989)
Allison.Scott@huschblackwell.com
HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP
355 South Grand Avenue, Suite 2850
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Telephone: (213) 356-2963

Attorneys for Defendants,
Arijai Aesthetic and Wellness, P.A., and
Christopher Balgobin, M.D.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROBYN BALLIET, an individual,
Plaintiff,

v.

ARIJAI AESTHETIC AND
WELLNESS, P.A., a Minnesota
corporation; CHRISTOPHER
BALGOBIN, an individual; and
DOES 1-10,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-08662-AB-PD

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER

(PD Version)

☐ Check if submitted without
material modifications to PD form

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

1.2 GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

Plaintiff's claims and Defendant Christopher Balgobin, M.D.'s counterclaims concern purported sexual harassment stemming from a lengthy relationship in which the Plaintiff provided social media services to the Defendant Arijai Aesthetic and Wellness, P.A.'s medical practice. Additional claims asserted by Plaintiff include retaliation, gender discrimination, and failure to prevent harassment. Defendant Arijai Aesthetic and Wellness, P.A.'s counter-complaint also includes causes of action for breach of contract and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing. Given that both parties frequently communicated through text messages and social media, the discovery process will involve the production of these communications. These messages contain sensitive information and photos, including images of Defendant Arijai Aesthetic and Wellness, P.A.'s patients, who

are not parties in this case. Defendant Arijai Aesthetic and Wellness, P.A. has an obligation to maintain the confidentiality of any patient's medical treatment. Not only do some of the messages include information and pictures related to Defendant Arijai Aesthetic and Wellness, P.A.'s patients, but also the messages contain intimate details of details of sexual conduct and intimate photographs of the respective parties. If these communications were to be publicly disclosed, it could lead to significant reputational damage for both the Plaintiff and Defendant, as well as for other individuals mentioned in the messages, in addition to a substantial invasion of privacy.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Action: This pending federal lawsuit titled *Robyn Balliet v. Arijai Aesthetic and Wellness, P.A., et al.*

2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.

2.3 "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the Good Cause Statement.

2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their support staff).

2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as "CONFIDENTIAL."

2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

1 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
2 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
3 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose
4 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating
5 Party to sanctions.

6 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
7 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
8 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

9 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
10 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
11 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
12 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
13 produced.

14 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

15 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents,
16 but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that
17 the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" (hereinafter
18 "CONFIDENTIAL legend"), to each page that contains protected material. If only a
19 portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing
20 Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
21 markings in the margins).

22 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for
23 inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has
24 indicated which documents it would like copied and produced. During the
25 inspection and before the designation, all of the material made available for
26 inspection will be deemed "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has
27 identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must
28

1 determine which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this
2 Order. Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must
3 affix the “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material.
4 If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the
5 Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making
6 appropriate markings in the margins).

7 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify the
8 Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition all
9 protected testimony.

10 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for
11 any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the
12 exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend
13 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants
14 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, will identify the protected
15 portion(s).

16 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
17 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive
18 the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material.
19 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable
20 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this
21 Order.

22 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

23 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
24 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s
25 Scheduling Order.

26 ///

27 ///

1 (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as
2 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably
3 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

4 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of
5 the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

6 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
7 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
8 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

9 (d) the Court and its personnel;

10 (e) court reporters and their staff;

11 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
12 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
13 signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

14 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
15 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

16 (h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the
17 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
18 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they
19 will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the
20 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
21 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
22 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may
23 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except
24 as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

25 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
26 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

27 ///

8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED
IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

(a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification will include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification will include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena or court order will not produce any information designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party will bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE
PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

(a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the

1 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
2 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

3 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
4 produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
5 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's
6 confidential information, then the Party will:

7 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
8 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality
9 agreement with a Non-Party;

10 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
11 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
12 specific description of the information requested; and

13 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the
14 Non-Party, if requested.

15 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within
16 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
17 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery
18 request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party will
19 not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the
20 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.
21 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party will bear the burden and expense
22 of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

23 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

24 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
25 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
26 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in
27 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts
28

1 to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or
2 persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order,
3 and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and
4 Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
6 PROTECTED MATERIAL

7 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
8 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,
9 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil
10 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever
11 procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production
12 without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and
13 (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a
14 communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work
15 product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated
16 protective order submitted to the court.

17 12. MISCELLANEOUS

18 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
19 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

20 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
21 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
22 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
23 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
24 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

25 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
26 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may
27 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
28

1 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
2 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
3 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

4 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

5 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
6 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
7 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in
8 this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
9 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
10 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving
11 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same
12 person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies
13 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or
14 destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,
15 abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any
16 of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to
17 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing
18 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert
19 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such
20 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or
21 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in
22 Section 4 (DURATION).

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

14. Any willful violation of this Order may be punished by civil or criminal contempt proceedings, financial or evidentiary sanctions, reference to disciplinary authorities, or other appropriate action at the discretion of the Court.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: January 27, 2025

/s/Britney Ralston

Rodney S. Diggs
Britney Ralston
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DATED: January 27, 2025

/s/ Allison Scott

Allison M. Scott
Attorneys for Defendant

FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: January 31, 2025



HON. PATRICIA DONAHUE
United States Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [full name], of _____ [full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on [date] in the case of *Robyn Balliet v. Arijai Aesthetic and Wellness, P.A.*, et al., Case No.: 2-24-cv-08662-AB-PD. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [full name] of _____ [full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____